

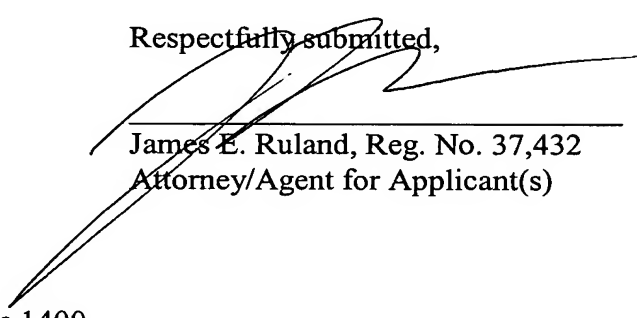
REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are pending. Applicants have amended the claims to correct typographical errors, change terminology, and clarify formulas. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attorney Docket No.: MAIKO-0037

Date: 15 March 2005

JER:jqs

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